

MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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The cover of the current issue of the MLA Bulletin was originally designed by Douglas Lochhead for the Atlantic Provinces Checklist, volume 1, January-December 1957, which is due for distribution in mid-March. As most MLA members are aware, the Checklist was an outgrowth of discussions at the Sydney Conference last May, between the Association and the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council of which MLA is a member. As its subtitle suggests, it is a guide to current information in books, pamphlets, government publications, magazine articles and documentary films relating to the four Atlantic Provinces.

The compilation of the Checklist has been a highly cooperative effort, involving librarians of all four provinces, who have assumed responsibility for submitting to Mr. Lochhead and myself any pertinent material. It has been edited and classified and the final copy turned over to the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, which is responsible for printing and distribution. Your editors wish to acknowledge with gratitude the invaluable assistance of the fellow librarians in this project, which is not without flaw, but which we trust will fulfil their expectations in some measure at least. As a regional bibliography of this particular type, the Checklist is a more or less unique venture, and we await with interest any comments and suggestions.

Shirley B. Elliott,
Librarian, Legislative Library

NOTES

On page 32. Nova Scotia Union Catalogue - 1957. The name of Miss Gladys Black should appear with that report.

On page 38. Notable books for 1957 - ALA List. The name of Miss Evelyn Campbell should be omitted.

.... Of Interest

Congratulations to McClelland and Stewart for publishing the first Canadian "Quality Paperback"! The NEW CANADIAN LIBRARY contains the following titles: Literary Lapses by Stephen Leacock, Over Prairie Trails by Frederick Grove, Such is my Beloved by Morley Callaghan, and As for me and My House by Sinclair Ross. They retail for \$1.00. This is an important event in Canadian publishing, and one that all librarians will follow with interest.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has presented over 300 books on contemporary American civilization to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The volumes were offered to a limited number of public, regional, and university libraries in the Commonwealth countries. The books will be sent out to the five regional libraries in the province for display and loan purposes and then they will be added to the permanent collection of the Provincial Library in Halifax.

Acadia University Library has also received the gift of 350 books from the Carnegie Corporation.

Libraries have been opened in Port Williams and Hantsport, Nova Scotia. This brings to eleven the number of libraries in the Annapolis Valley Regional System.

The James McConnell Memorial Public Library will be built in Sydney within the next two years. The final obstacle seems to have been overcome. There has been a good deal of discussion over the site for the library, and it is gratifying to librarians to know that so many Sydney people are taking an intense interest in the new building. The question of the site appears now to have been settled as an anonymous citizen has offered to purchase a centrally located lot for the library. Best wishes Sydney!

The Provincial Library reports on a distinguished visitor: Mr. Theodore Friis, Director of Libraries of South Africa, arrived at Digby on February 19th, on the final part of a three month tour of libraries and hospitals in Canada and the United States. It is significant that Nova Scotia Provincial and Regional Libraries were selected by Mr. Friis as an essential point of his trip.

Mr. Friis as Director of South Africa's libraries is in charge of all adult education and extension work as well as library development. He is a graduate of Chicago University and will soon complete the study for his doctorate from that University. Mr. Friis speaks four languages, which is required of all professional librarians in South Africa.

On his present government-authorized inspection trip, Mr.

Friis has travelled from Los Angeles, Seattle, and Vancouver to Halifax, from where he sailed on the 22nd on the "Sylvania" for a further three months' inspection trip in England and on the Continent. Having bought a car in the United States, Mr. Friis had the unusual experience for a South Afrikaner of driving through 59 inches of snow as he came from Montreal through Maine. He coped with the 59 inches of snow as capably as he copes with his South African libraries, where he has increased the budget from 75 thousand to a half million pounds in three years. To us, it seems like a Cinderella story that whenever he saw equipment or new methods, Mr. Friis was in a position to cable his office to buy such equipment without careful consideration of budget expenditures.

The Moncton Regional Library, a division of Central Library Services of the Province of New Brunswick, has been in operation since May 15, 1957. We hope to have a report from Miss Marion Gardiner at a later date.

.... Personals

It is encouraging to see the trend of Canadian East-West emigration occasionally being reversed, particularly in the library profession. We welcome with pleasure Mrs. Anne McCormick who has joined the staff of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library on February 1st, 1958, as Assistant Director. A graduate of Queen's University and of the Toronto University Library School, Mrs. McCormick has worked in the Sun Life Assurance Co. Library, Montreal; the Public Library, Fort Frances, Ontario; and the Pembroke Public Library. Before coming to Halifax, Mrs. McCormick was Chief Librarian of the Essex County Library, Windsor, Ontario.

The Province of British Columbia has much to boast of this Centenary Year, but to nothing can it point with so much pride as the new Vancouver Public Library. This library is the finest library building in Canada, and the MLA takes a certain pride in the fact that one of its former members has been appointed the Director of the new library. Congratulations Mr. Grossman!

Mary Brown, now Mrs. Leo MacNeil, who has been with the N.S. Regional Library in Halifax, has gone to live in Sydney, and will shortly be joining the staff of the C.B. Regional Library. We wish Mrs. MacNeil every happiness.

Barbara Kincaid, Bookmobile Librarian of the C.B. Regional Library, sends the following:

"A very popular book on the Bookmobile is Hofsinde's Indian Sign Language". A small boy begged for it to be left until the next visit. When the librarian started to explain that other schools wanted it, he said, "But, all the others have had it but me, and I can't talk to anyone because I can't understand what they're saying." Who could refuse that!"

THE DOCUMENTATION SEMINAR - SOME IMPRESSIONS

Douglas Lochhead

The Documentation Seminar held at McGill on January 20th and 21st, and sponsored by the Canadian Library Association, the McGill Library School, and other interested groups, was a notable success. It was well organized to begin with; was intelligently managed throughout; and accomplished much of what it set out to do. Over 200 delegates from Canada, the United States and UNESCO sat in on the two-days of meetings to hear about and to discuss "New Methods and Techniques for the Communication of Knowledge".

The proceedings of the Seminar are to be published in due course, by about the middle of May.

The Seminar might easily have been an ordeal of well-intentioned theorizing, of vaporous expression of opinion, by a multitude of librarians and others all with pet peeves to air and private axes to make sharp. It might easily have dissolved into a chaos of verbiage out of which no delegate would have emerged with a clear notion of what documentation was all about. I am glad to report that it was none of these things.

That the Seminar was such a success was almost entirely due to the performance of one person - Dr. Ralph R. Shaw, Professor, Graduate School of Library Service, Rutgers University. Dr. Shaw is an outstanding lecturer who knows all the secrets of his trade. He captured the attention of his audience and held it for the two days. The purpose of the Seminar - "to give Canadians an opportunity to consider the new methods and techniques for the communication of knowledge and Canada's need for these" was largely realized through the lecturing genius of Dr. Shaw in his three main talks.

In his first speech he spoke on "The Field of Documentation". This was the introduction to the subject, the delineation of limits and boundaries. In it he made the point that documentation is not something removed from what we know as librarianship, but simply an extension of it, involving not so much intricate machinery and complicated techniques, but common sense extension of library routines and/or the revision of existing methods. Throughout all his talks Dr. Shaw attempted to destroy the notion that the development of machines, "hardware", was the only answer to the problem of coping with great masses of specialized materials. He emphasized the importance of the human element and through the use of one example after the other was most convincing.

In his second speech, "Evaluation of the Traditional and New Techniques", Shaw treated the "hardware", the machines developed over the years. As the inventor of several of them he was familiar with all mechanical details, attendant costs, and the important time-studies so necessary as a follow-up before any judgement

of a machine or manual technique is made. He told us that no machine has yet been developed or been proven superior to human librarians in action, in efficiency, or from the standpoint of costs. He did not rule out the hardware, and held that for repetitive, more or less straight-forward routines, some existing machines were capable of excellent performance (and I emphasize the word "repetitive"). But for more complicated operations involving judgements and decisions by trained and experienced librarians, no piece of hardware had yet proven its worth.

This impression by one of such experience left many delegates reassured and perhaps a little self-satisfied. We had not, after all, been wasting our time. But any self-assurance was done away with in his next speech.

In his concluding speech, Dr. Shaw finished his great contribution to the Seminar by speaking of "The Scientific Management of Libraries and Documentation Centres". This speech was the highlight, I think, and in it Dr. Shaw injected more fresh air of common sense into the whole topic of library management than I had thought possible. Scientific management is largely common sense management and co-operation by enlightened administrators and administrated. By people who are not afraid to look at the ways in which they are working and to experiment with them and to change them if necessary.

The final session of the Seminar was devoted to a panel discussion of "Canadian Implications in Documentation". As might be expected with such a large and relatively new problem (for Canadians), this session was introductory in nature and unavoidably sketchy and inclusive. However, it set the stage for further discussions at the Quebec Conference and in doing this realized its objective.

It was a successful Seminar - lively, informative, and a happy prelude to new and promising developments in documentation in this country.

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The following was also sent in by Barbara Kincaid:

"A Branch Librarian, who would never think of using profane language, was asked one stormy morning for the biography of Marion Anderson. Quickly she said, "My Lord, What a Morning". "Yes, isn't it!" replied her patron."

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MLA Bulletin. Vol. 22, No. 1, Fall 1957, page 11. The source of the quotation at the bottom of the page was omitted. It is from The Anatomy of Melancholy by Robert Burton.

FOLKSONG AND FOLKLORE AT MOUNT ALLISON: A CHECKLIST

Laurie M. Allison

The Mary Mellish Archibald Library at Mount Allison University consists of over 25,000 volumes and approximately 3,000 records devoted largely to English and American poetry and drama, music, and folklore. The library has grown through the gifts of the late Dr. Raymond Clare Archibald, who died in 1955, or by purchase from a fund which he established in 1905 in memory of his mother, Mary Mellish Archibald, who for many years taught in the Mount Allison Ladies College, and who in her last years was Preceptress of that institution.

Dr. Archibald was a mathematician of international reputation who taught at Brown University from 1908 to 1942. His early academic education was gained at Mount Allison, where he studied violin and mathematics; he then proceeded to Harvard for graduate work in the field of mathematics and thence to Europe where he studied for his doctorate at Strassburg. Raymond Archibald's interest in books and libraries began long before he went to Harvard or abroad; his ideas about library administration and collecting began to develop while he was a student at Mount Allison. During the years he lived and taught at Brown University, Dr. Archibald not only did much to add to his reputation as a bibliographer and historian of the mathematical sciences, but he did much to build up the mathematical library at that university so that today Brown possesses a mathematical collection almost without peer in the United States.

Not so well known, however, is Raymond Archibald's reputation as a library builder in Canada. His mother, Mary Mellish Archibald, was a lover of poetry and the arts, and this library dedicated to her memory, began to grow rapidly after 1927, when the present university library building was erected at Mount Allison. A special reading room was provided for reference materials, periodicals, and recordings, as well as two adjacent floors of stacks. It seems too, that Dr. Archibald was guided to some extent by the superb Harris Collection of American poetry in the John Hay Library at Brown. The Mary Mellish Archibald Collection would, on a smaller scale, become a centre for students of poetry and drama at Mount Allison; the collection today is a monument to his ability to create a special collection of excellent quality.

The library's collections of songs, poetical concordances, individual bibliographies and dictionaries of English and American poets, as well as books and journals dealing with music, ballads, folksongs, and related subjects are extensive. In most cases the recordings in the collection have been added with one purpose in mind, or to quote Dr. Archibald himself, "to further vivify for students and scholars the power of the printed word". Today, in the field of poetry alone, this library has recordings

of more than one hundred contemporary poets reading from their own works. In the development of the record collection, Dr. Archibald took as his principle guide the poetry collection at Harvard, at one time housed in Widener and now part of the undergraduate Lamont Library.

Early in the thirties, Dr. Archibald became interested in folkmusic and folklore. The specific source of this interest is difficult to trace. Perhaps it began with ballad literature and its place in the literary tradition; it was certainly stimulated by the work of Cecil Sharp, Maude Karpeles and the International Folk Music Council, and in Canada by the work of Marius Barbeau and later by his correspondence and ensuing friendship with Dr. Helen Creighton. Visits to universities in New England, Virginia, and Kentucky introduced Dr. Archibald to many people who were doing new work in this field. By the late forties the Mary Mellish Archibald Library contained many standard works in the fields of British and American folkmusic and folklore, and it has grown until today this library is the main centre for study of folkmusic and folklore in the Atlantic Provinces. It seems fitting that one library in this area, so rich in cultural tradition and folk traditions, should devote special attention to this field of study.

A most important aspect of the Mary Mellish Archibald Library's collection of folkmusic and folklore material is its list of serials. These serials include irregularly issued society or other publications, annuals, and other periodicals whose numbers may be issued more frequently. It is hoped that the following checklist dealing with ballads, folkmusic, and folklore will be of use to librarians as a reference or bibliographical aid.

Unless otherwise cited, runs are complete and bound:

Alberta Folklore Quarterly, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
v. 1, 1945 - v. 2, 1946. No more published.

American Folklore Society, New York and Philadelphia
Journal, v. 1, 1888-
Memoirs, v. 1, 1894-
Publications. Bibliographical Series. v. 1, 1950-

Les Archives de Folklore, Laval University, Quebec.
v. 1, 1946-

Arkansas Folklore, Fayetteville, Ark.
v. 1, 1950-

Ballad Society, London.
Publications, v. 1, 1868- v. 38, 1899

California Folklore Quarterly, University of California, Berkeley.
v. 1, 1942 - v. 5, 1946. Continued as Western Folklore.

Celtic Magazine, Edinburgh.
v. 1, 1876 - v. 13, 1888.

English Folk Dance and Song Society, London.

English Dance and Song, v. 1, 1936-

Journal, v. 1, 1932-

News, v. 1, 1921 - v. 4, 1936. Continued as English Song and Dance.

Folklore Society, London.

Folklore Record, v. 1, 1878 - v. 5, 1882. No more published.

Folklore Journal, v. 1, 1883 - v. 7, 1889. No more published.

Folklore, v. 1, 1890- Continuation of Folklore Journal.

Publications; under this heading are listed all the volumes listed above under Folklore, with many others, such as bibliographies, handbooks, reports of congresses.

Folk Dancer, Manchester.

v. 1, 1954 - v. 3, 1957. Continued as the Folklorist.

Folklorist, Manchester.

v. 4, 1957- Continuation of Folk Dancer.

Folksay, Norman, Oklahoma. Publication of the Oklahoma Folklore Soc.

v. 1, 1929 - v. 4, 1932.

Folksong Society of Northeast, Cambridge, Mass.

Bulletin, no. 1, 1930 - no. 12, 1937. No more published.

Folksong Society, London.

Journal, v. 1, 1899 - v. 8, 1931. Continued as English Folk Dance and Song Society, London. Journal.

French Folklore Society, New York.

Bulletin, v. 4, 1945-

Glasgow Ballad Club. Ballads and Poems, by members, Glasgow, Scotland.

v. 1, 1885 - v. 4, 1924. No more published.

Hoosier Folklore Bulletin, Bloomington, Indiana.

v. 1, 1942 - v. 4, 1945. Organ of the Hoosier Folklore Soc. Continued as Hoosier Folklore, a Quarterly of Folklore from Indiana and Neighboring states, v. 5, 1946 - v. 6, 1947. No more published.

International Folkmusic Council, London.

Bulletin, No. 1, 1948-

Journal, v. 1, 1949-

Irish Folksong Society, Dublin and London.

Journal, v. 1, 1904 - v. 29, 1939. Volumes 22-29 are devoted to the Bunting Society of Irish Folk Music and Songs, with indices.

Irisleabhar Ceilteach (Irish Journal) Toronto.

v. 1, 1952 - v. 2, 1954. No more published.

Jahrbuch fur Volksliederforschung, im Auftrage des Deutschen Volksliedarchivs mit Unterstutzung von Eric Seeman. Jahrgang 1 - 6 (1923, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1938) Berlin.

Kentucky Folklore Record, Bowling Green, Ky. Publication of the Kentucky Folklore Society. v. 1, 1955 -

Midwest Folklore, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. v. 1, 1951-

Nebraska Folklore Pamphlet, Lincoln, Nebraska; Federal Works Agency, Works Projects Administration of Nebraska, Nebraska Writers Project, no. 1, 1937 - no. 30, 1940. The library has nos. 4, 26-30 only.

New York Folklore Quarterly, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. v. 1, 1945- Publication of the New York Folklore Society.

Percy Society, London. Early English Poetry, Ballads and Popular Literature of the Middle Ages. v. 1, 1840 - v. 31, 1852. The volume for 1841 is the rare suppressed number.

The Rymour Club, Edinburgh.

Transactions, v. 1, 1906 - v. 3, 1928. The first two volumes were called *Miscellenea*.

Southern Folklore Quarterly, Gainesville, Florida. Publication of the University of Florica in cooperation with the Southeastern Folklore Society. v. 1, 1937-

Tennessee Folklore Society, Marysville, Tenn. Bulletin, v. 1, 1935-

Texas Folklore Society, Austin, Texas. Publications, v. 1, 1916-

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Publications of the Folklore Foundation. v. 1, 1922 - v. 14, 1934. No more published. The library lacks v. 1,2,3,7,8, but has the American Folklore Society, Memoirs, Jamaica Folklore, v.21, 1928, which contains v. 1,2,6,8, of the Vassar series, with additions.

Viking Society for Northern Research, University of London, Univ. College.

Year Book, v. 1, 1907 - v. 10, 1940.

Old Lore Miscellany, v. 1, 1907 - v. 10, 1940.

Caithness and Sutherland Records, v. 1, 1909 - 1928.

Orkney and Shetland Records, v. 1, 1907 - v. 3, 1923.

Saga-book, v. 1, 1895 - v. 11, 1936.

Sasines, v. 1, 1907 - v. 2, 1923.

Extra series, v. 2. T. Erlingsson, Ruins of Saga-time in Iceland, 1899.

(Continued on page 45)

St. Francis Xavier University

New Science Building

Staff Member

The new building for the study of Chemistry and Physics at St. Francis Xavier University which was opened in time to accommodate this year's classes is a fair example of the high cost of modern technological progress. About five years of planning went into the million-dollar structure on the St. F.X. campus and simple statistics give a quick picture of what was involved in the construction.

Eighty-four tons of Alberene stone were brought to Antigonish by train for tables and work surfaces. Fifteen of the largest vans in Canada brought especially designed furniture from Toronto and more than one thousand cabinets and work units were installed. The furniture move was roughly equivalent to taking forty average households overland. The piping in the structure runs to five miles and it carries air, gas, heat and water. In addition there is over a mile of special acid-resistant waste pipe. Gas and air outlets in the laboratories number one thousand. To provide the various types of power needed in the labs, thirteen miles of wire and six miles of conduit are concealed in service walls and service ledges.

The T-shaped structure was designed by Jens Frederick Larson, university architect, who has planned four other buildings on the St. F.X. campus.

CHEMISTRY FACILITIES. Eleven labs have been provided for chemistry and facilities have also been provided for eighteen students to do research work. The chemistry section is capable of handling three hundred students at a time, each with a generous work area. It also includes a main supply room and each lab has its own store room and preparation room. One of the laboratories is a radio-chemistry lab. equipped to handle radio-active materials and dispose of radio-active waste.

FOR PHYSICS. Ten labs have been allocated to the Physics Department and these will accommodate 260 students. Special facilities in this department include a spectrometry lab, two research labs, a room for the study of advanced optics, and a completely outfitted darkroom.

The building includes a library 20 x 50 ft. which is so designed that it may be expanded to almost the full length of the building if necessary. General facilities include a secretarial office and reception centre, 17 offices for the professorial staff, 6 balance rooms, a woodworking shop, and an instrument repair shop.

The building was designed to meet the needs of a student

registration of 2400 provided that the proportion of science students remains at the present figure. The present registration of full-time students at Antigonish is 1118, slightly more than half of them being enrolled in Science and Engineering.

The building was officially opened on August 29 when the Most Reverend John R. MacDonald, Bishop of Antigonish and Chancellor of the University accepted the key from Bernard O'Leary, President of MacDonald Construction Co., which company handled the general construction.

A special convocation marked the opening of the building and five distinguished scientists accepted honorary degrees on that occasion. They were: Jens Frederick Larson, the architect, Msgr. P.J. Nicholson, pioneer physicist at St. F.X., and President Emeritus of that institution; Dr. E.W.R. Steacie, President, National Research Council of Canada; Dr. J.A. Stratton, Chancellor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Walter L. Whitehead, Associate Professor of Geology, M.I.T. for ten years, Director of the M.I.T. summer school of Geology in Nova Scotia.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CANADA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS-THE GORDON COMMISSION

(The following reports are now available from the Queen's Printer)

Canada - U.S. Economic Relations - Irving Brecher and S.S. Reisman.
Canadian Automotive Industry. Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.
Canadian Chemical Industry. John Davis.

Canadian Electrical Manufacturing Industry. Clarence L. Barber.
Canadian Energy Prospects. John Davis.

Canadian Industrial Machinery Industry. Urwick, Currie Limited.

Canadian Primary Iron and Steel Industry. Bank of Nova Scotia.

Canadian Primary Textiles Industry. National Industrial Conference Board (Canadian Office).

Canadian Secondary Manufacturing Industry. D.H. Fullerton, H.A. Hampson.
Certain Aspects of Taxation: Relating to Investment in Canada by Non-

residents. J. Grant Glassco of Clarkson, Gordon and Company.

Commercial Fisheries of Canada. Dept. of Fisheries; Fisheries Res. Bd.

Consumption Expenditures in Canada. David W. Slater.

Electronics Industry in Canada. Canadian Business Service Limited.

Housing and Social Capital. Yves Dubé, J.E. Howes, and D.L. McQueen.

Industrial Concentration. Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Labour Mobility. Canadian Labour Congress.

Nova Scotia Coal Industry. Urwick, Currie Limited.

Probable Effects of Increasing Mechanization in Industry. Canadian Labour Congress.

Progress and Prospects of Canadian Agriculture. W.M. Drummond and W. MacKenzie.

The Service Industries. Bank of Montreal.

Transportation in Canada. J.C. Lessard.

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REPORT OF A BRANCH SUPERVISOR - CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY

Ruth M. McDormand

In 1950 regional library service was established in Cape Breton County. It is composed of ten units: nine branch libraries and a bookmobile, which brings books to people in urban and rural areas. Five of these are colliery towns (New Waterford, Dominion, Reserve Mines, Florence, and Donkin), and two are seaports (North Sydney and Louisbourg), with populations ranging from 1,194 to 10,381. None is far from the ocean or the coal mines, and all are within a 25-mile radius of Sydney, the Regional headquarters. The branch libraries are located in Credit Union and school buildings and in a Navy League hall; they are open from 8 to 16 hr. per week, with book stocks ranging from 1,650 to 3,350.

To supplement these bookstocks, the supervisor must find answers for the teenage lad who has made an electronic magnet and wants to know how to connect the wires; for the clubwoman about to give a talk on capital punishment (her husband chooses a book on hunting while she talks to me, and I hope there's no connection); for the miner who wants to know more about the by-products of coal; for the owners of a cooperative cold storage plant who want to know how to process all the parts of a hog (including, if possible, the squeal); and for high school students seeking vocational guidance (the Occupational Information Monographs issued by the Ontario College of Education are excellent supplements to our books on this subject, and I am sure that TWA, TCA, and land only knows who else, wonder what inspired this burning interest in their respective fields on the part of youngsters in Cape Breton). Inter-library loan is an integral part of regional library service, and the seven branches received 850 requests last year, almost half of them for non-fiction.

Part of the book stock is permanent in each library; this includes basic reference books and standard children's titles. The others, for the most part, remain in one library for a year, after which they are exchanged among the branches. Exchange is carried out in the summer months, with the assistance of university students who expect to go to Library School after graduation and is combined with annual inventory; it is an excellent way, too, of discovering what is being read in each library. The reading interests and needs of the towns vary to a surprising extent, so that the annual book exchange involves far more than the transportation of boxes of books from one place to another.

The practice of buying two or three copies of a title for use in the seven libraries is feasible because of the exchange program and the monthly issue of lists of new books added to the entire regional stock. As these lists are handed to the branch librarians, the supervisor supplements them with brief verbal annotations. Each branch receives some of the new books and for

these, of course, more complete information is provided.

Publicity is another duty of the supervisor, made easy and pleasant in Cape Breton by the interest and co-operation of the branch librarians and of the daily newspaper, the Cape Breton Post, which serves the whole area. November and February are the high points for newspaper publicity; each town has a story by their local correspondent covering activities in Young Canada's Book Week, and for the annual report issued for the individual branch library. Book displays are arranged in the libraries that have enough space to accommodate them, and book talks are given to study groups and to Home and School Associations. When a set of Britannica Junior was donated to one of our libraries, its scope and use were explained in individual classroom talks, and the response of these alert young people is an experience I shall never forget.

My modus operandi is to make regular visits to each library, for the most part when it is open to the public so that there is an opportunity to meet many of our patrons; this is both pleasant and profitable. (I must remark, in passing, that Cape Bretoners are wonderful!). By driving about 800 miles a month, weekly visits to each library are possible, and to facilitate this service the C.B. Regional Library Board has provided a beautiful blue station wagon; its value in carrying out our work is unquestioned. It is possible with frequent visits to establish between the supervisor and branch librarians an atmosphere of friendly interest so that mutual problems and successes can be discussed, and our library standards upheld by informal suggestions. For example, branch librarians like to discuss the background of a special request for inter-library loan, and to mention the kind of book in current demand by their readers; by the same token, they are reluctant to release popular books that are ready for repair or discard.

Once in a while, a new branch librarian must be instructed in her duties, and at such a time I am indeed grateful for the Staff Manual for Branch Librarians, prepared by Miss Alberta Letts, for its introduction to the ethics of librarianship and the daily routine of good library practice. Occasionally, it is necessary to relieve branch librarians when they cannot be at their desks, and I shall only suggest what it means to have personal contacts with our readers by a gentle reminder that those who have passed on to library administration were in such manner confirmed in their zeal. Absenteeism is no problem for us, and I think this is chiefly because in the expression of the ideal of service through librarianship the branch staffs satisfy a deep need, leaving them no time to indulge in psychosomatic illnesses or even real ones! The matter of annual vacations is satisfactorily solved by a Cape Breton institution known as the Miners' Vacation, a two week period in August when the mines are closed and families take holiday trips together or engage in home improvement and other family projects.

The selection of new books for purchase is the responsibility of the chief librarian and professional staff, and is based on the needs of the individual libraries. The success of this policy may be judged by the fact that our inter-library loans are filled almost entirely by books in one or another of our own libraries.

Cataloguing? This is one aspect of librarianship that I'm very happy to relinquish to those whose aptitude fits them with a passion for detail and accuracy, which mine does not. In our case, the Provincial Library, which also maintains a Union Catalogue, takes care of all cataloguing, except for books that are donated, and subject headings for non-fiction.

Perhaps you have decided that I'm happy in my work? That I find it professionally stimulating and satisfying? Guilty, on all counts! I think that in regional library service, as it is being worked out in the field, lies the answer to the reading needs of a large part of the population of Canada. In every city and settlement there are readers to whom books are the very breath of life, and in supplying their demands we feel no sense of sacrifice but only of personal and professional fulfillment. If a librarian may misquote:

Here in Cape Breton, where Coal is King and most of our readers are his subjects, "I envy nobody, no, not I!".

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THE NOVA SCOTIA UNION CATALOGUE - 1957

The Nova Scotia Union Catalogue continues to grow in size, and, we are glad to be able to report, in usefulness. In answer to about 225 calls from libraries in Halifax, more than 125 books were located in Nova Scotia libraries. In addition to the many requests from the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries, 137 items were sought. Of these only two were not located, either in our own Union Catalogue or through that of the National Library, and two others were located in the United States. Libraries in Nova Scotia have also borrowed from 17 libraries in Nova Scotia, 2 in New Brunswick, 3 in Quebec, 7 in Ontario, and 1 in British Columbia. In return books were loaned by Nova Scotia libraries to 10 libraries in Nova Scotia, 7 in New Brunswick, 1 in Prince Edward Island, 1 in Newfoundland, 5 in Quebec, 11 in Ontario, and 2 in Manitoba. In two cases a book needed and located was not available for loan, but in each case the enquirer was able to travel to the library to consult the work.

In 1956, the library of the Naval Research Establishment at Dartmouth began sending us a record of its accessions. During the year we received 14,173 cards, and incorporated into the Main Union Catalogue 15,020 entries, of which 9,727 represented a title not previously recorded. The Main Union Catalogue at the end of

the year contained over 67,000 Main Entry cards, representing approximately 100,000 volumes.

1573 Secondary Entry and reference cards were made and filed into the Main Catalogue.

Withdrawal records for the last copy of a title in our Union Catalogue totalled 623.

The work of stamping and cutting the rolls of photographed cards was completed early in 1957, and these records are now consulted regularly. 1756 of the Acadia and Dalhousie photographed cards were incorporated into the Main Catalogue (A1 - As) before the card platen of our typewriter broke and halted the card work for five months. However, with a new one, and another typewriter, we hope to make up in 1958.

We are adding steadily to our stock of bibliographical aids. The list below is not complete, but it may give you an idea of the help you can get from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library Union Catalogue. We are happy to be able to use them to answer your questions.

Australia. Commonwealth National Library.

Annual catalogue of Australian publications. 1954 to date, with older numbers on order.

Besterman, Theodore

A World bibliography of bibliographies. 3d ed. [c1955] 4v.

Blanck, J.N.

Bibliography of American literature. 1955-

British Drama League. Library.

The player's library. 1950, and supplements to date.

Cabean, D.C., ed.

A critical bibliography of French literature. 1947-

Child, F.J.

The English and Scottish popular ballads. 1957 [1882-94] 5v in 3.

Cox, E.G.

A reference guide to the literature of travel. 1935-

Dictionnaire des lettres francaises. Georges Grente, éd. 1951-

Diehl, K.S.

Religions, mythologies, folklores. 1956.

Drevet, M.L.

Bibliographie de la littérature française, 1940-1949. -- 1954.

Evans, Charles

American bibliography, 1639-1820. 1941-1955. 13v.

Ferguson, J.A.

Bigliography of Australia. v.3 and 4, 1839-1850. 1941-

Haywood, Charles

A bibliography of North American folklore and folksong. 1951.

Kelly, James

An American catalogue of books, published...1861-1871. 1938.2v.
(We also have the American catalogue, 1876-1910, and the U.S.
Catalogue, 1912-CBI to date)

Loewenberg, Alfred, comp.

Annals of Opera, 1597-1940. 2d ed.rev. 1955. 2v.

Matthews, William

British autobiographies. 1955.

Matthews, William

British diaries, 1442-1942. 1950.

Matthews, William

Canadian diaries and autobiographies. 1950.

Mendelssohn, Sidney

South African bibliography. 2d ed. 1957. 2v.

Pollard, A.W. and Redgrave, G.R.

A short-title catalogue; 1475-1640. 1946 reprint of 1926.

The reference catalogue of current literature. 1936; 1951; 1957.

3v. in 5.

Roorbach, O.A.

Bibliotheca americana. 1820-1852; 1852-1855; 1855-1858. 1939.
3v.

Spence, S.A.

A bibliography of selected early books and pamphlets relating
to Australia, 1610-1880. Also Supplement to 1610-1880, and ex-
tension from 1881-1900. 1952-44. 2v.

Thompson, Stith

Motif-index of folk-literature. Rev. and enl. ed. 1955-

Wing, Donald, comp.

Short-title catalogue; 1641-1700. 1945. 2v.

On our part, we appreciate the continued co-operation of all
contributors to the Union Catalogue, as well as the assistance
given us in many ways by the Reference Service and Union Catalogue
of the National Library.

NOVA SCOTIANA - 1957

Shirley B. Elliott
Legislative Library

AGRICULTURE

Canada. Department of Agriculture. Marketing Service. Economics Division. Atlantic provinces agriculture, by E.P. Reid [and] J.M. Fitzpatrick. Ottawa, The Department, 1957. 39, [3] p., tabs., maps. Mimeographed. "This publication was prepared at the request of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council."

EATON, W.L.

...The Cranberry: Cranberry culture, by E.L. Eaton, Cranberry diseases, by K.A. Harrison; Cranberry insects, by C.W. Maxwell and A.D. Pickett. Ottawa, Department of Agriculture, 1957. 28 p., illus., tabs. (Publication 810)

FILLMORE, Roscoe A.

The growing question: answers to your gardening problems...; drawings by Winifred Fox, photographs by Harold Bailey. Toronto, Ryerson, [1957] xix, 357p., illus., plates.

BOTANY

ROLAND, A.E. and BENSON, D.A.

Summer key to the woody plants of Nova Scotia. Halifax, Department of Lands and Forests, 1957. 42p., figs. (Bulletin no. 16)

CITY PLANNING

STEPHENSON, Gordon

A development study of Halifax, Nova Scotia ... Halifax, Corporation of the City of Halifax, 1957. xiii, 62p., illus., tabs., diags., charts, bibliog.
-- Supplementary volume. 1957. viii, 30p., tabs.

DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL

NICHOLSON Ian

Sea-saint; the building and single-handed maiden voyage of an ocean-cruiser ... London, Peter Davies, [1957] vii, 190, [1] p., illus., front., map, plans.

WRIGHT, Esther (Clark)

Blomidon rose...; illus. by Helen D. Beals. Toronto, Ryerson, [1957] vii, 206p., illus.

FICTION AND POETRY

BIRD, William Richard

Tristram's salvation; a novel. Toronto, Ryerson, [c1957] 254pp.

MERRICK, Earl C.

Luciquita, little shepherd girl of Bolivia ...; illus. by Audrey Matheson. Toronto, Ryerson [1957] 47p., illus.

RICHARDSON, Evelyn May (Fox)
No small tempest ... Toronto, Ryerson, [1957] 229 p.

RITCHIE, Cicero T.
The willing maid. London, Abelard Schuman, [1957] 310p.,
bibliog.

WOODMAN, M.A.L.

Pen pictures of our valley, published in honor of twenty-fifth anniversary of Apple Blossom festival, also for benefit of those unable to visit our valley. [Wolfville, N.S.] The author, 1957. 21p., illus.

FOLKLORE

CREIGHTON, Helen
Bluenose ghosts. Toronto, Ryerson, [1957] xii, 280p.

FORESTRY

DRINKWATER, M.H.

... The tolerant hardwood forests of northern Nova Scotia... Ottawa, Queen's printer, 1957. 25p., illus., map, tabs., fig., bibliog. (Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Forest Research Division, Technical note no. 57)

HISTORIC SITES

Canada. Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Alexander Graham Bell museum, Baddeck, Cape Breton island, N.S. [Ottawa, Queen's printer, 1957] 16p., illus., ports. maps (on outside back cover)

--- Grand Pre National Historic Park. Ottawa, Queen's printer, 17p., illus.

MCLENNAN, Katharine

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park ..., issued under the authority of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. [Ottawa, Queen's printer, 1957] 28, 3p., illus., map.

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

BECK, James Murray

The government of Nova Scotia ... Toronto, University of Toronto press, 1957. xii, 327p., tabs., charts, graph.

BORRETT, William Coates

Tales retold under the old town clock ... "The author's selection from a series of broadcast talks ..." Toronto, Ryerson, [1957] xii, 212p., illus.

Colchester Historical Society.

Proceedings, reports and program summaries, 1954-1957. [Truro, N.S., Truro print, 1957] 119p., map (folded).

CROCKETT, Asa James

George Munro "the publisher". Halifax, Dalhousie University press, 1957. v, 34p., port.
Reprinted from the Dalhousie Review.

EDWARDS, C.A.M.

Brook Watson of Beauséjour; illus. by Vernon Mould. Toronto, Ryerson [1957], 183p., illus., map (front).

McLENNAN, John Stewart

Louisbourg from its foundation to its fall, 1713-1758, with illustrations. 2d edg Sydney, Nova Scotia, Fortress press, 1957. vii, 330p., illus.

MARTIN, John Patrick

The story of Dartmouth ...; with a foreword by Dr. Thomas H. Raddall, Dartmouth, Privately printed, 1957. 550p., illus., ports.

Nova Scotia. Public Archives.

...Glimpses of Nova Scotia 1807-24, as seen through the eyes of two Halifax merchants, a Wilmot clergyman and the Clerk of the Assembly of Nova Scotia; introduction by C.B. Ferguson, Provincial Archivist. Halifax, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 1957. iv, 94p. (Bulletin no.12)

POHL, Frederick Julius

The Vikings on Cape Cod: evidence from archaeological discovery. Pictou, N.S., Pictou Advocate press, 1957. 63p., maps, figs.

RADDALL, Thomas Head

The path of destiny; Canada from the British conquest to home rule: 1763-1850. Toronto, Doubleday, 1957. x, 1 l, 468p., maps (Canadian history series, v.3)

RICHARDSON, Evelyn May (Fox), comp.

The wreckwood chair; sagas of the sea told in wood; comp. ... for the Shelburne Historical Society. Halifax, Royal print and litho. [1957] 51p., illus., port.

ROSS, Daniel Keith

The pioneers and churches ... New Glasgow, N.S., Hector publishing co., 1957 239, [5]p., illus., ports.

SCHULL, Joseph

The salt-water men: Canada's deep-sea sailors; illus. by Ed. McNally. Toronto, Macmillan, 1957. 144p., illus. (Great stories of Canada)

TALLANT, Robert

Evangeline and the Acadians; illustrated by Cerinne Boyd Dillon. New York, Random, 1957. 183p., illus. (Landmark books)

INDUSTRY

Nova Scotia. Department of Trade and Industry.

Nova Scotia directory of manufacturers, 1956. Halifax, The Department. 1956. vii, 102p., tabs.
-- 1957 Supplement. The Department, 1957. 16p.

MINING AND GEOLOGY

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Department of Geology and Geo-physics. Cambridge, Mass.

Ten years in Nova Scotia; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Summer School of Geology, 1948-1957. Cambridge, Mass., the Department, 1957. [6]. 96,8p., illus., ports., maps, fig., bibliogs.

Nova Scotia. Department of Mines.

Low temperature carbonization of Nova Scotia coal, by D.H. Stonehouse. Halifax, Department of Mines, 1957. 57p., tabs., figs., bibliog.

MUSIC

RATHKINS, Eleanor, and DAVIES, Frances

I like to sing; music and words by Eleanor Rathkins; illustrations by Frances Davies. Halifax, Rolph-Clark-Stone Maritimes, 1957. unp., illus.

TAXATION

Dalhousie University. Institute of Public Affairs.

Municipal assessment and taxation of ships in Nova Scotia, with particular reference to the commercial fishing industry; a special report prepared for the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. Halifax, Institute of Public Affairs, 1957. 15p. Mimeographed.

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NOTABLE BOOKS OF 1957 - ALA ANNUAL LIST

Evelyn Campbell

The Public Library Association, a Division of the American Library Association, in designating these as "notable" books, is not saying that these are necessarily the "best" books of the year, but merely that they are books especially "worthy of note". The selection has been issued for the observance of National Library Week in the United States, March 16 - 22.

ALS Press Release, March 1, 1958

Agar, Herbert.

The price of power. University of Chicago. An appraisal of America's new role in world politics since World War II.

Agee, James.

Death in the family. McDowell, Obolensky. The effect of the sudden, meaningless death of a young father on the lives of his wife and their two small children, told with compassion and understanding.

Allen, Robert P.

On the trail of the vanishing birds. McGraw. The efforts during the last twenty-five years on the part of the research director of National Audubon Society to save from extinction three beautiful species of North American birds, the American flamingo, the roseate spoon-bill, and the whooping crane.

Bedford, Sybille.

A legacy. Simon and Schuster. The inter-relationships of the members of two influential families in pre-World War I, Germany.

Bone, Edith.

7 year's solitary. Harcourt. The efforts of a human being - in this case a woman over seventy - to keep her integrity, sanity and dignity against seven year's subjection to the horrors and indignity of a Communist prison cell.

Bowen, Catherine.

The lion and the throne; the life and times of Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634). Little. One of the most dramatic eras of British history is recaptured with clarity and accuracy. This is the third biography in a triad including Holmes and Adams.

Brooks, Van Wyck.

Days of the Phoenix; the nineteen twenties I remember. Dutton. Similar in tone and content to the first volume of Mr. Brook's autobiographical ruminations, Scenes and portraits, this describes the people he knew, the places he visited and his emerging philosophy of life.

Burlingame, Roger.

The American conscience. Knopf. The influence of the early Pilgrims and their dealings with the Indians, the treatment of minority groups, and early economic practices all left an indelible stamp on the national conscience.

Chase, Mary E.

The edge of darkness. Norton. A Maine fishing hamlet comes to life with compassionate understanding as Miss Chase recounts the events which centered around the funeral of one of the oldest inhabitants.

Church, Richard.

The golden sovereign. Dutton. The author's poetic writing comes through his self-revelation with charm and subtlety as Mr. Church continues his reminiscences begun in Over the Bridge.

Churchill, Winston Leonard Spencer.

The age of revolution. Dodd. ...includes a vivid account of three major revolutions ... the English Revolution, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution.

Coit, Margaret, L.

Mr. Baruch. Houghton. The biography of a great American depicted with clarity against a background of his country's development.

Connell, Brian.

A watcher on the Rhine; an appraisal of Germany today. Morrow.

A report on the social, economic, and political forces of work in Germany during the post-war era.

Coon, Carleton S.

The seven caves. Knopf. A personal adventure in anthropological archaeology which centers interest on explorations in the Middle East.

Cozzens, James G.

By love possessed. Harcourt. From the focal point of forty-nine hours in the life of Arthur Winner, a lawyer in a small East-coast town, the author explores - pro and con - many kinds of love and the effect on those who love and are loved.

Djilas, Milovan.

The new class; analysis of the Communist system. Praeger. An objective yet incisive analysis by an ex-communist who is not afraid to state facts as he sees them.

Durant, William J.

The Reformation. Simon and Schuster. A history of European civilization from Wyclif to Calvin, the sixth volume in the author's The story of civilization.

Farre, Rowena.

Seal morning. Rinehart. Life with the strange members of the animal family which the author and her aunt collected on their croft in a remote section of northern Scotland.

Flanner, Janet.

Men and monuments. Harper. Five essays which portray the contributions to art made by Matisse, Picasso, and Braque; the words of André Malraux and the acquisition of masterpieces by the arch "collector", Hermann Goering.

Hamilton, Edith.

The echo of Greece. Norton. An interpretative essay on the Greek way of life during the fourth century B.C. which carries within its thesis a warning for our times.

Hight, Gilbert.

Poets in a landscape. Knopf. The personal lives and literary careers of seven Latin poets, Catullus, Virgil, Propertius, Horace, Tibullus, Ovid, and Juvenal.

Janson, H.W. and Dora J.

The picture history of painting - from cave painting to modern times. Abrams.

Johnson, Gerald W.

The lunatic fringe! Lippincott. Sketches of thirteen Americans who were considered nonconformists by their contemporaries.

Kissinger, Henry A.

Nuclear weapons and foreign policy. Harper. A clear warning that America must be constantly on the alert if freedom is not to be lost through a succession of little wars, unsuccessfully concluded.

Lee, Tom.

The King Ranch. Little. A definitive work on the King Ranch in Texas and the Kings and Klebergs who have operated it during its long history.

Lerner, Max.

American as a civilization; life and thought in the United States today. Simon and Schuster. A comprehensive synthesis of America at mid-century.

Low, David.

Autobiography. Simon and Schuster. This personal story of a noted British political cartoonist has the added value of bringing to life the many great men and those not so great who have made headlines and been featured in Low's cartoons during the last half-century.

Life (periodical). The world's great religions. Time Inc. An impressive, unbiased religious panoply presented by means of text and art reproductions.

Mehta, Ve P.

Face to face. Little. A young Indian records with humility his efforts to seek an American education and overcome blindness. This account of his courageous plan, crowned with success, is especially revealing in its picture of a blind person's ability to succeed in the world of sight.

Michener, James A.

The bridge at Andau. Random House. A vivid recapturing of the events of the Hungarian Revolution, 1956, and the people who took part in those events.

Mowat, Farley.

The dog who wouldn't be. Little. Warm humor and appreciative understanding pervade this story of a boy, his family and his dog.

Packard, Vance C.

The hidden persuaders. McKay. An exploration into the operations of MR (Motivation Research) with explanations of how it affects mass communication in advertising and public relations.

Stewart Sidney.

Give us this day. Norton. What happened to the survivors of the Bataan Death March by one of them.

Thiel, Rudolf.

And there was light: the discovery of the universe; tr. from the German by Richard and Clara Winston. Knopf. From the early star gazers of Babylon to the astrophysicists of today.

Vandiver, Frank E.

Mighty Stonewall. McGraw. A definitive biography of a great military genius, the Confederate general, Thomas Jonathon Jackson.

Walters, Raymond.

Albert Gallatin: Jeffersonian financier and diplomat. Macmillan. A biography which interprets the man and his times.

Ward, Barbara.

Interplay of East and West. Norton. A sparkling evaluation of the way the parts of the globe have reacted upon each other in the past and how they may be expected to act in any future crisis.

White, William S.

Citadel; the story of the U.S. Senate. Harper. An analysis and critical appraisal of the men who make up the U.S. Senate and their methods of accomplishing - or not accomplishing - their objectives.

Woodring, Paul.

A fourth of a nation. McGraw. A seasoned, calm evaluation of the American educational scene which includes suggestions for a constructive realignment of educational programs.

Wright, Frank L.

A testament. Horizon. Detailed account of the author's creative life, his ideas and personal beliefs.

Wylie, Laurence W.

Village in the Vaucluse. Harvard University. An interpretative picture of life in a small French village, Peyrane, as experienced by the author, his wife and their two small sons.

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LIBRARY LITERATURE NOTES

Barbara Murray
N.S. Technical College

When the International Study Conference on Classification for Information Retrieval was held at Dorking in May, 1957, the Conference was limited to some forty invited experts. These people met in a "retreat" where competition from the distractions of city life was all but eliminated. This expedited the exchange of ideas, promoted free discussion and made possible a maximum of personal contact. The retreat was the Beatrice Webb House and it is significant that, as a result of this study, a maxim of the Fabians was borrowed: "Pray Devoutly - Hammer Stoutly". (Library Resources and Technical Services, v.2, no.1, p.33 - 43, Winter '58)

At the Symposium on Systems for Information Retrieval held in Cleveland, Ohio, from 15 to 17 April, 1957, 600 people attended and twenty-nine papers were given. Among the papers was one on The F.B.I. Network by the Assistant Director of the F. B. I. An abstract states: "This was a description of the system used to record and retrieve fingerprint information ... The extraordinary thing is that, although this would appear to be an ideal field for a machine system, the cards are sorted, filed, and searched by hand. Several equipment manufacturers have been asked to study the system with a view to mechanizing it but, as yet, none have been able to suggest a quicker or more efficient method". (Journal of Documentation, v.13, no.4, p.209 - 221, December 1957)

"To proceed with dispatch toward a major program of advanced studies and research, the annual book fund at the University of British Columbia must be increased over a two or three year period by not less than \$100,000 a year" said Mr. Neal Harlow when he outlined library needs to the college paper. (U.B.C. Reports, v.4, no.3, January 1958).

While we in Canada were celebrating National Health Week, our American friends were marking RARE BOOK WEEK. This week has been listed in the calendar of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States "to promote interest in and understanding of old and rare books". It ran from February 2nd to 8th. (Library Journal, v.83, no.2, p. 152, January 15, 1958.)

The most complete collection of works by and about the English poet, Francis Thompson, is to be found in the library at Boston College. This Thompsoniana, which was exhibited during the month of November at the Boston Public Library, commemorated the fiftieth year since this celebrated poet's death. Hitherto unpublished manuscripts of work now published in THE MAN HAS WINGS were on display. (Library Journal, v.82, no.22,

p. 3171, December 15, 1957)

In "An experiment in cooperative processing", Mrs. Orceana Mahoney, executive secretary of ALA Resources and Technical Services Division, tells of centralized processing that has been established to serve ten libraries of Southwest Missouri. Mrs. Mahoney speaks of this unique service whereby each library continues to do its own selecting and ordering, but the materials are received, catalogued, and processed at the center to be shipped from the center to the contracting libraries ready for shelving except for marking or other special preparation, and cards are ready to file in the shelf list and catalog. The article is the more interesting to read while thinking how successful the same experiment has been in Prince Edward Island's library service since the 1930's and Nova Scotia since 1949. (ALA Bulletin, v.52, no.2, February, 1958, p. 127)

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REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION - ALEXANDER FORRESTER

(VII - SCHOOL LIBRARIES)

(Taken from Journals of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, 1858)

It may here be proper to state for the information of all, that the sum of 500 pounds voted by the Legislature to be applied every year in the purchase of books for school libraries, has not been expended for the past two years. This, I believe, is, in some measure, owing to the views I expressed to the then leader of the government anent these libraries, and since repeated to the present provincial secretary; and it is right that I now briefly state these views.

Feeling a deep interest in the success of these libraries, as calculated when properly managed to elevate, in no ordinary degree the intellectual and moral condition of the whole community; on my first tour through the province, as superintendent of education, I made diligent enquiry regarding the working of these institutions; I was gratified to find that in some localities they were highly appreciated, and that the books selected by the honorable Mr. Howe and my predecessor, Mr. Dawson, were diligently perused. I was equally grieved on the other hand to find that in as many cases, perhaps in more, few of the people had heard anything about these libraries, and still fewer had profited by them. I endeavoured, to the best of my ability, to meet these two classes of individuals. I encouraged the former to persevere and obtained from them much valuable information as to the kind of books they most prized. There seemed to prevail a pretty general feeling that many of the books were not sufficiently elementary, and still more, that there were few if any suited for sabbath reading - the day which the working men, for whom these books were mainly intended could devote to such employment. In

the latter case I exerted myself to arouse them from supineness, pointed out the boon conferred on them by the legislature for their mental improvement, and, by expostulating with influential individuals in the locality, I believe, I succeeded, in some instances, in putting the books into circulation. - That year I was requested by the government to make the selection most suitable according to the information I had gathered. It happened, that about that time, Mr. MacKinlay was making arrangements to visit the States, and, after consultation with him as to the books most likely to prove of most extensive usefulness, he kindly undertook to order them at as reasonable a cost as they could be procured. The books arrived in due time and were distributed in the usual way. Some of the Boards expressed their highest approbation of the selection, and others objected to them in no measured terms. In these circumstances, I was led de novo to canvass all matters connected with these libraries, and after due deliberation the conclusion forced upon me was, that it was scarcely possible, even for the most judicious to make such a selection as would meet the views of all; at all events, I felt disinclined to undertake the responsibility of ordering more, and recommended the adoption of the plan pursued with much success in Upper Canada; viz. to draw out a descriptive catalogue of the books most likely to be profitable; and after obtaining the sanction of the legislature to the same, to allow each section spontaneously contribute any portion of funds, with a view to the formation of a library, that the section be entitled to a larger allowance, according to a certain understood scale. The longer I reflect on the matter, I am the more thoroughly satisfied, that the above or some similar plan is the only one that will enlist the sympathies of the people, ensure a diligent perusal of the books, and render the boon of real service to the province.

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Continued from page 27 (Checklist of material in the Mary Mellish Archibald Library at Mount Allison University): -

Western Folklore, University of California, Berkeley.
v.6, 1947- Continuation of California Folklore Quarterly.

Word-Lore, the 'Folk Magazine', edited by Douglas Macmillan,
London, Folk Press, v.1, 1926 - v.3, 1928. No more published.

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